[Translation]

Recognition from All India Council for Technical Education

*313. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made it compulsory for all the institutions engaged in providing technical education to get recognition from All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of institutions recognised by the Council after verifying their educational standards and examination results?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) to (c) The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), established as a statutory authority under the AICTE Act, 1987 is empowered to grant approval for starting new technical institutions and for introduction of new courses or programmes in consultation with the agencies concerned. As on 31.12.1996 the AICTE has approved 1504 Diploma level and 753 Degree level institutions in Technical Education covering the fields of Engineering and Technology, Pharmacy, Architecture and Hotel Manatement and Catering Technology.

[English]

Deported Indians from Gulf Countries

*314. PROF. P. J. KURIEN :
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Indians deported from Gulf countries due to lack of adequate documents during last one year;

(b) the number of them returned to Gulf countries after obtaining proper documents;

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government with regard to the remaining deported workers;

(d) whether inquiries have been made into the circumstances in which so many Indians had gone to UAE without proper documents; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (c) During the year 1996, over 70,000 Indians were deported from Golf countries after Indian missions issued emergency certificates to them to return to India. These perfons were deported, either because they entered legally but due to overstay or other reasons became illegal; or they entered illegally, with or without visas/passports. The number of persons who were deported on their Indian passports due to illegal stay cannot be exactly estimated as the local authorities do not provide this information to the Indian missions. Hence, the illegal status of Indian nationals is due to a lack of valid permission to stay in Gulf countries, rather than non-availability of Indian travel documents.

The actual number of Indians, out of those deported from Gulf countries, who have returned to these countries cannot be estimated as they are not required to identify themselves as returnees either at the time of exit from India or report to the Indian missions on arrival in Gulf countries.

Government have already issued instructions to passport issuing authorities in India for issue of duplicate or fresh passports, as the case may be, to Indian nationals deported from the Gulf, subject to the furnishing of required documentation. However, their return to Gulf countries is dependent on their obtaining valid visas.

A vast majority of persons deported from UAE had originally gone to UAE holding valid travel documents and on valid visas. Their stay became illegal subsequently when they did not abide by the visa conditions. Their large scale deportation has been as a result of the tightening of immigration procedures in UAE and a crackdown on illegal immigrants. A small percentage, however, would be persons who would have gone by sea or crossed over by land from neighbouring Gulf countries with or without valid travel documents.

Insurgent Activities in North-Eastern Areas

*315. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Hasina admits Ulfa camps in Bangla" appearing in 'The Asian Age' dated December 17, 1996;

(b) if so, the precise locations and strength of such camps;

(c) whether these camps are also used as conduits for supplying arms into the North-Eastern areas of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have asked the Bangladesh Government to close down these camps; and

(f) if so, the response of the Bangladesh Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (f) Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Hasina admits ULFA